

MAINTENANCE BOND

BY THIS BOND WE, Meritage Homes of Florida, Inc., as Principal, and Harco National Insurance Company, as Surety, are bound to Hernando County, Florida, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, hereinafter "County", in the sum of One Million Nine Hundred Forty Nine Thousand (\$ Three Hundred Forty Eight and 38/100 (1,949,348.38) ) for the payment of which we bind ourselves, our heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents:

WHEREAS, the above-named Principal has applied, or will apply, to the County for approval of a plat of a certain area of land within Hernando County, Florida, to be known as Benton Hills Phase 1 (Project) and has agreed, or is required, as a condition to the approval of said plat by the County or pursuant to Land Development Regulations, to maintain all required, approved, or dedicated improvements, which improvements consist of, but are not necessarily limited to, roads, drainage, sewer and water lines, and all other improvements installed in connection with the Project; and,

WHEREAS, the approval of said plat by the County is further conditioned upon the furnishing of an adequate Surety Bond to the County pursuant to the County's Land Development Regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CONDITION OF THIS BOND is such that if the Principal:

- A. Shall maintain all improvements within the project for a period of eighteen (18) months from the date established by the county for the beginning of the maintenance period; and
- B. During such maintenance period, shall provide any maintenance repairs required by the county to ensure the integrity of the improvements, as designed and constructed, is maintained, including but not limited to:
  - (1) Repair and/or replacement of pavement, culverts, catch basins, etc;
  - (2) Control of erosion, replacement of sod, removal of soil washed into the street or drainage system;
  - (3) Maintenance and/or replacement of regulatory signs and markings;
  - (4) Maintenance of sewer lines, force mains, lift stations and wastewater treatment plants if approved and maintenance of water plants and distribution systems; and
- C. Shall reimburse the County or district for any and all repairs it might make to the systems during the maintenance period; and
- D. Shall submit written requests for an inspection of all improvements to the County's Utilities and Public Works Departments, as applicable, at least sixty (60) days prior to the termination of the completion period;

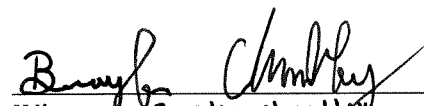
then this obligation shall be void. Otherwise, it remains in full force and effect.

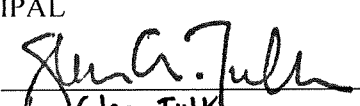
AND the said Surety, for value received, hereby stipulates and agrees that no change involving an extension of time, alterations, or additions to the terms of the improvements to be made hereunder, or in the plans, specifications and schedules covering the same, shall in any way affect the obligation of said Surety on this bond and the Surety does hereby waive notice of any such changes.

THIS BOND shall be for the use and benefit of the County if it should elect to proceed with said work upon the failure of the Principal to maintain the improvements in connection with the Project for a period of eighteen (18) months from the date established by the county for the beginning of the maintenance period, or any subsequent date provided through an agreement between the Principal and the County for an extension of time.

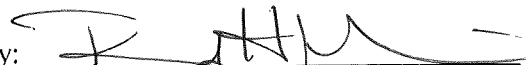
IT IS FURTHER understood that should Hernando County, Florida be required to institute legal proceedings in order to collect any funds under this bond, Meritage Homes of Florida, Inc. (Principal) shall be responsible for attorney's fees and court costs incurred by the County.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Principal and the Surety have caused these presents to be duly executed this 25th day of July, 2024.

  
Witness Braylen Chumbley

Meritage Homes of Florida, Inc.  
PRINCIPAL  
By:   
Name: Glen Tulik  
Title: VP-National Land Development

  
Witness Katie McConnell

Harco National Insurance Company  
SURETY  
By:   
Name: Richard H. Mitchell  
Title: Attorney-in-Fact

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**  
**HARCO NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY**  
**INTERNATIONAL FIDELITY INSURANCE COMPANY**

Bond # 0858402

Member companies of IAT Insurance Group, Headquartered: 4200 Six Forks Rd, Suite 1400, Raleigh, NC 27609

**KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:** That **HARCO NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY**, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Illinois, and **INTERNATIONAL FIDELITY INSURANCE COMPANY**, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New Jersey, and having their principal offices located respectively in the cities of Rolling Meadows, Illinois and Newark, New Jersey, do hereby constitute and appoint

JEFFREY M. WILSON, RICHARD H. MITCHELL, MARK W. EDWARDS, II, WILLIAM M. SMITH

Birmingham, AL

their true and lawful attorney(s)-in-fact to execute, seal and deliver for and on its behalf as surety, any and all bonds and undertakings, contracts of indemnity and other writings obligatory in the nature thereof, which are or may be allowed, required or permitted by law, statute, rule, regulation, contract or otherwise, and the execution of such instrument(s) in pursuance of these presents, shall be as binding upon the said **HARCO NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY** and **INTERNATIONAL FIDELITY INSURANCE COMPANY**, as fully and amply, to all intents and purposes, as if the same had been duly executed and acknowledged by their regularly elected officers at their principal offices.

This Power of Attorney is executed, and may be revoked, pursuant to and by authority of the By-Laws of **HARCO NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY** and **INTERNATIONAL FIDELITY INSURANCE COMPANY** and is granted under and by authority of the following resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of **INTERNATIONAL FIDELITY INSURANCE COMPANY** at a meeting duly held on the 13th day of December, 2018 and by the Board of Directors of **HARCO NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY** at a meeting held on the 13th day of December, 2018.

"**RESOLVED**, that (1) the Chief Executive Officer, President, Executive Vice President, Senior Vice President, Vice President, or Secretary of the Corporation shall have the power to appoint, and to revoke the appointments of, Attorneys-in-Fact or agents with power and authority as defined or limited in their respective powers of attorney, and to execute on behalf of the Corporation and affix the Corporation's seal thereto, bonds, undertakings, recognizances, contracts of indemnity and other written obligations in the nature thereof or related thereto; and (2) any such Officers of the Corporation may appoint and revoke the appointments of joint-control custodians, agents for acceptance of process, and Attorneys-in-fact with authority to execute waivers and consents on behalf of the Corporation; and (3) the signature of any such Officer of the Corporation and the Corporation's seal may be affixed by facsimile to any power of attorney or certification given for the execution of any bond, undertaking, recognizance, contract of indemnity or other written obligation in the nature thereof or related thereto, such signature and seals when so used whether heretofore or hereafter, being hereby adopted by the Corporation as the original signature of such officer and the original seal of the Corporation, to be valid and binding upon the Corporation with the same force and effect as though manually affixed."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, **HARCO NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY** and **INTERNATIONAL FIDELITY INSURANCE COMPANY** have each executed and attested these presents on this 31st day of December, 2023



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
County of Essex

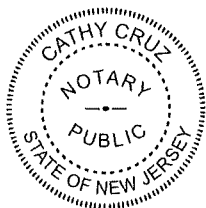
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
County of Cook



Michael F. Zurcher

Executive Vice President, Harco National Insurance Company  
and International Fidelity Insurance Company

On this 31st day of December, 2023, before me came the individual who executed the preceding instrument, to me personally known, and, being by me duly sworn, said he is the therein described and authorized officer of **HARCO NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY** and **INTERNATIONAL FIDELITY INSURANCE COMPANY**; that the seals affixed to said instrument are the Corporate Seals of said Companies; that the said Corporate Seals and his signature were duly affixed by order of the Boards of Directors of said Companies.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand affixed my Official Seal, at the City of Newark, New Jersey the day and year first above written.

Cathy Cruz a Notary Public of New Jersey  
My Commission Expires April 16, 2029

**CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned officer of **HARCO NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY** and **INTERNATIONAL FIDELITY INSURANCE COMPANY** do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of the Power of Attorney and affidavit, and the copy of the Sections of the By-Laws of said Companies as set forth in said Power of Attorney, with the originals on file in the home office of said companies, and that the same are correct transcripts thereof, and of the whole of the said originals, and that the said Power of Attorney has not been revoked and is now in full force and effect.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this day, July 25, 2024

A00055

Irene Martins, Assistant Secretary